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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

OHIRA, FUKUDA REVIEW DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES

Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 4 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 4 Sep KYODO--Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira Tuesday promised a review of the present Diet election law as well as the presidential election system of the ruling Liberal-Democratic party at a luncheon meeting with former Premier Takeo Fukuda.

The meeting, lasting about an hour, was held at the prime minister's official residence.

At the outset, Ohira explained the results of the talks he had held with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and with Chinese Vice Premier Gu Mu the previous day.

He told Fukuda, his predecessor as premier, that he was probing the possibility of visiting China himself.

Fukuda asked Ohira to explain how the bill proposed by Takeo Miki, also a former prime minister, for realization of fair elections should be handled.

Ohira replied that he was worried because of the lack of time in handling the problem but said that he would do his best for enactment of such a law.

Fukuda then said that the establishment of political morality has become an irresistible trend of the times as a result of the occurrence of a series of scandals.

He cited as the biggest political problems to be tackled the reform of the system for election of members of both houses of the Diet and conducting of a fundamental review of the LDP presidential election system.

Ohira replied that he would begin an earnest study of these problems immediately after the coming general election from the standpoint of establishing political morality.

He thus hinted at his intention to instruct LDP organs concerned to draw up plans for reform of the election systems after the general election.

Fukuda pointed out that disputes had occurred between the mainstream and non-leadership factions of the LDP over the nomination of official candidates of the party in some constituencies.

He argued that the leadership faction should offer concessions to settle such disputes smoothly.

Prime Minister Ohira replied that he wants unity in the ruling party in going into coming election and is implicitly seeking the cooperation of the non-leadership factions.

Ohira had held talks with former LDP Secretary General Yasuhiro Nakasone and with former Prime Minister Takeo Miki on August 30 and 31, respectively. He now believes that he has secured the cooperation of the leaders of all the non-leadership factions within the party as a result of his conferences with former Prime Minister Fukuda.

However, the non-leadership factions maintain that they have secured from the prime minister a pledge to carry out a fair personnel reshuffle and to establish political morality after the election as a result of the series of conferences.

So it can be expected that Prime Minister Ohira could be driven into an awkward position by the outcome of the general election.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

OHIRA PROMISES MIKI COOPERATION IN ENACTING ELECTION LAW

Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 31 Aug 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 31 Aug KYODO--Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira Friday promised to cooperate with former Prime Minister Takeo Miki in Miki's efforts to enact law to ensure "clean" elections.

Ohira is holding a series of meetings with top leaders of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) in connection with the forthcoming general election.

The prime minister met with LDP Vice President Eiichi Nishimura Wednesday, former Chairman of the Executive Council Yasuhiro Nakasone Thursday and will confer with former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda next Tuesday.

After Ohira asked Miki for his cooperation in dissolving the Diet, Miki told the prime minister that the party must take the lead in conducting clean elections and demanded enactment of a clean election law in the current Diet.

Ohira replied he would fully cooperate once the LDP election system council worked out its plans for the bill.

When Miki pointed out that the people are opposed to the introduction of a general excise tax, Ohira said he would not necessarily insist on such a tax if someone would suggest a valid alternative plan for rehabilitating national economy.

Referring to the energy problem, Miki urged Ohira to appoint a politician as Japan's roving ambassador to the Middle East because he said Japan's Mideast diplomatic policy is not as clearcut as those of the United States or advanced European nations.

On political ethics, one of the major issues Ohira plans to take up in his election campaign, the prime minister said he intended to present to the Diet a bill calling for clarifying political donations to individual statesmen.

Asked to cooperate in the general election, Miki said that Ohira as LDP president should make sure that party certification to candidates is given fairly and election funds are distributed evenly.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

'KYODO' CONDUCTS NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON OHIRA CABINET

Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 3 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 3 Sep KYODO—A nationwide public opinion poll conducted by KYODO News Services has revealed that nonsupporters now outnumber supporters of the Ohira cabinet.

In the survey carried out August 25-26, 46.1 per cent of the pollees said they did not support the Ohira regime while 44.8 per cent expressed support. This indicated that nonsupporters have increased by 4.5 per cent since the last poll taken in March.

A total of 12.1 per cent of those expressing nonsupport said they did not trust the prime minister while 12.9 per cent said they were not supporting the cabinet because it was a Liberal-Democratic government.

A total of 28.7 per cent expressed dissatisfaction with the cabinet's economic policy and 10.6 per cent disliked Masayoshi Ohira's personality.

In addition, 7.2 per cent said the prime minister had failed to make positive efforts to resolve the aircraft scandal.

In contrast, 18.2 per cent of those supporting Ohira's cabinet expressed confidence in the prime minister and 21.7 per cent said they backed the cabinet because it was a Liberal-Democratic regime while 36.3 per cent said they had no alternative because there was no other suitable person to take over power.

Only 1.4 per cent said they believed Ohira was pursuing a credible economic policy.

As for the Liberal-Democratic Party, however, those supporting it reached 48.7 per cent, the highest figure after the 49.6 per cent chalked up by the first cabinet of Eisaku Sato in a survey conducted immediately after it was formed in December 1964.

From the latest survey, it can be seen that the biggest reasons for the nonsupport of the cabinet is Ohira's inability to contain the rising cost of living, his intention to increase taxes for the lower income bracket and his positive stance on introduction of a general excise tax.

The fact that less than 1 per cent of the nonsupporters had mentioned Ohira's lukewarm attitude toward solving the aircraft bribery scandal indicates the people are not too enthusiastic about seeing the case settled in a clear-cut manner.

It is noteworthy that one out of every four supporters of the LDP was not supporting the Ohira cabinet.

Also worthy of note is that the survey showed that fully 77 per cent of the supporters of the middle-of-the-road Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), who had been most favorably inclined toward the Ohira cabinet, had turned their backs on him.

The poll showed that the No 1 opposition party Japan Socialist Party enjoyed support of 15.0 per cent, or 1.8 per cent less than the 16.8 per cent recorded in KYODO's previous survey taken in March.

The percentage was the lowest since KYODO began to conduct such polls.

The New Liberal Club (NLC), which in March 1977 was found to have the support of 9.5 per cent of the people, is now supported by only 3.0 per cent, reflecting the intraparty split over the policy it should follow.

The Japan Communist Party (JCP), on the other hand, was supported by 4.1 per cent, a gain of 1.4 per cent compared with the percentage in the March poll.

The supporting percentage for the Komeito Party and the United Social Democratic Party (USD) showed no noticeable change from the 4.3 per cent and 1.1 per cent recorded in the March survey.

It is not surprising that the number of nonsupporters of the Ohira cabinet overtook the figure for supporters eight months after Ohira took over the helm of the government.

In the case of the cabinet of Kakuei Tanaka formed in July 1972, nonsupporters came to outnumber supporters nine months after inauguration. And in the case of the cabinet of Takeo Miki, it was five months after installation that nonsupporters exceeded supporters.

In the case of the unpopular cabinet of Takeo Fukuda, Ohira's predecessor, however, the rate of nonsupport was higher than support from the beginning.

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

JAPAN'S LDP APPROVES CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL ELECTION

Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 7 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo 7 Sep KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Friday evening formally approved 307 candidates to run in the forthcoming general election on the LDP ticket.

The official approval of the LDP candidates came at a meeting of the party's election policy committee held following the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

The 307 constitute the first group of approved LDP candidates for the next election. The second group of candidates will be announced by September 17, when the election is officially gazetted.

The final number of official LDP candidates is expected to be around 315, the smallest in the party's history. The smallest number previously was 320, approved for the general election held in 1966.

The 307 candidates include those holding seats in the lower house until its dissolution at 6:45 p.m. Friday, 25 former representatives and 41 new candidates.

The 307 will be given certificates of official approval and accompanying allowances at the LDP headquarters Saturday.

The low figure for officially approved LDP candidates is due to the fact that there is little possibility of new candidates coming out ahead in the coming election because the incumbents are overwhelmingly strong, according to an LDP executive.

Secretary-General Kunikichi Saito and other ruling party executives are reportedly resolved to increase the LDP seats in the lower house from 248 at the time of its dissolution to 271, a figure regarded as a stable majority.

Sixty-four of the 307 officially approved candidates belong to the Takeo Fukuda faction, 51 to the Masayoshi Ohira faction, 50 each to the Kakuei Tanaka and Yasuhiro Nakasone factions and 41 to the Takeo Miki faction, while 26 are neutrals and 25 belong to no factions.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

'KYODO' OUTLINES LDP ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND

Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT 8 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 8 Sep KYODO--Politics is a costly business in Japan, where literally billions of yen change hands as politicians try to win seats in the Diet.

Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is officially reported to be planning to spend yen 2.5 billion for the October 7 general election.

Ohira dissolved the House of Representatives Friday night to meet the challenges of the 1980's with a new political lineup.

His aim is to obtain a comfortable majority in the 511-member lower house so that he can continue to hold the reins of government and deal with such crucial issues as energy conservation and inflation.

And in order to realize his dream, the LDP has recognized 307 persons as its "official candidates."

Each official LDP candidate, except present and former cabinet ministers, received yen 10 million from the party to run for the election after the lower house was dissolved.

It is a common knowledge in Japan that yen 10 million is not enough for any conservative candidate who has no backing of organized groups. Union members usually give monetary and physical support to opposition candidates.

Conservative candidates must spend money to recruit campaign workers. They also need money to carry out their "political activities," maintaining their private offices in their constituencies when there is no election.

It is also widely known that in addition to the yen 10 million the LDP candidates receive from their party, they also get a considerable sum from leaders of the factions they belong to. Factional leaders with rich resources of political contributions gain influence within the party on the strength of the number of members they have.

Political sources say that the LDP may spend as much as yen 5 billion during the upcoming campaigning.

The party has already collected yen 2.5 billion to prepare for the election.

The party managed to do this despite the fact that it has been in debt for years.

Party Secretary-General Kunikichi Saito told foreign correspondents in Tokyo recently that the LDP's annual expenses amount to about yen 10 billion and that it owes banks yen 5 billion.

He said his party hopes to pay back in the next five years, but that is unlikely because the LDP will need more money next year to support its candidates in the election for the upper house of the Diet.

Just about every politician admits politics is an expensive business. But despite moves to do something to make it less costly, Diet members have not been able to come up with a satisfactory solution.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

'KYODO' ON PROPOSAL TO REGULATE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 6 Sep 79 OW

[Article by Hidesuke Nagashima]

[Text] Tokyo, 6 Sep KYODO--Questionable political contributions are the order of the day in Japan as much as in the United States, rocked by the "Koreagate" scandal in recent years.

To correct the situation, a private advisory body to Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira has proposed a set of guidelines for controlling such contributions.

It is now largely up to Ohira himself to implement, through legislative action, the proposed standards for politicians and business corporations.

The opposition forces already claim that the publication of the guidelines at this time, with the general election imminent, is a government propaganda act aimed at the voting public.

Indeed, the council that made the recommendations included members of the Ohira cabinet in addition to former Supreme Court Chief Justice Masao Okahara and other private experts. Thus the government had at least some part in formulating the guidelines.

Editorial comments in the Japanese press Thursday morning ranged from skepticism to sarcasm, pointing out that the guidelines were full of generalities.

The proposals, submitted to Ohira Wednesday, include these points:

--Politicians be legally required to report to authorities political contributions they have received and to publicly disclose details of their personal properties.

--Business enterprises place themselves under strict voluntary auditing as far as political contributions are concerned, and promote international agreements to prevent illegal overseas payoffs by multinational corporations.

--Diet ethics committees be established to maintain lawmakers' code of morals.

--Public campaigns be promoted for prevention of political corruption.

But difficulties lie ahead for the implementation of the recommendations.

One question is: Will Prime Minister Ohira be serious in putting them into practice?

It is recalled that the cabinet of then Prime Minister Takeo Miki published similar guidelines in 1976 following the outbreak of a scandal over payoffs by Lockheed Aircraft Corp. But little specific action has since been taken to control corruption. Former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka is on trial in connection with the scandal, along with other defendants.

Under the present political fund control law, only political bodies, rather than politicians themselves, are required by law to report to authorities receipts and disbursements of political funds.

The home affairs ministry, in charge of overseeing political funds, says it would be difficult to revise the law to incorporate the reporting requirements by politicians.

Political experts are also skeptical about the guidelines, pointing out that drastic controls on political funds--channeled through various factions of political parties--would affect the very foundation of Japan's traditionally factionalism-oriented politics.

The recommendations followed a national uproar over another aircraft sales scandal, in which senior Liberal-Democratic Dietman Raizo Matsuno had admitted receiving about yen 500 million in "political contributions" over several years from 1967 from Nissho-Iwai Co., the Japanese agent for McDonnell Douglas.

The U.S. aircraft builder later succeeded in selling its F4E Phantom Fighters to Japan's self-defense forces.

Matsuno, a former defense agency director-general, was not prosecuted on grounds that the statute of limitations in the case had run out and he was not in an official position to influence aircraft deals when he received the money.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

'KYODO': JSP UNVEILS FOREIGN POLICY FOR 1980'S

Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 6 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 6 Sep KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party unveiled a draft foreign policy for the 1980's Thursday setting itself the task of achieving a nuclear-free zone in a large area of the globe covering Asia, Oceania and Latin America.

The draft was adopted at Thursday's session of the central executive committee and was sent to a subgroup of the executive committee, which is to present it to a party convention before the year ends.

It proposes that if the largest but perennial opposition party achieves power, it will first declare Japan to be a de-nuclearized zone as an extension of the present government's "three nonnuclear principles"—a policy not to produce, possess or allow the introduction of atomic weapons in this country.

Next, according to the draft, the JSP would urge and promote widening the nuclear-free zone to the Korean Peninsula.

As a third stage, the JSP would seek to extend the zone throughout Asia and the Pacific basin, and as a fourth, obtain support of the nuclear-free zone by the United Nations.

The socialist draft foreign policy also lists six key goals for Japan's diplomacy in the 1980's:

1. Promoting friendly Japan-China relations based on their peace and friendship treaty;
2. Furthering the concept of the peaceful reunification of Korea;
3. Conclusion of the proposed Japan-Soviet peace treaty based on return of the Soviet-held Kurile Islands to Japan;
4. Abrogation of the present joint security treaty between Japan and the United States and conclusion of a new Japan-U.S. friendship treaty;

5. Utmost efforts to realize the total banning of nuclear weapons and complete nuclear disarmament, and

6. Making an appreciable contribution to establishing new economic rules for the world giving full support to the efforts of developing nations to industrialize.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

'KYODO' ON INVESTIGATION COUNCIL'S DECENTRALIZATION PLAN

Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 6 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 6 Sep KYODO—The local system investigation council, an advisory organ to the prime minister, will submit to Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira Monday a recommendation on decentralization of power as a guideline for realizing "cheap government," Ohira's pet subject.

According to the recommendation, administrative "services" that had expanded during the years of Japan's rapid economic growth can no longer be maintained in a low-growth economy.

The council urges the government to carry out a systematic administrative reform of the central and local governments by clearly recognizing the limits of administrative services from the standpoint of awareness of new regionalism taking root among the people.

Especially on state subsidies, the council suggests adopting so-called "sunset formula," that is, subsidies should be granted for only so long and terminated at a fixed date.

The recommendation also contains the following:

1. The existing vertical relationship between the central government and local governments must be eliminated in favor of "equal relationship." A legislation should be enacted so that the six local national organizations, including the national association of governors and national association of mayors, would have a say in the establishment or abolition of laws related to the regions.
2. The central government's powers that have a close bearing on local affairs, such as granting of licenses for operation of buses and taxis and permitting establishment of health offices, should be transferred to prefectural governments. Prefectural governments, for their part, should transfer as much of their powers as possible to town and village governments.

3. The local autonomy law should be revised because prefectural and municipal governments tend to do no more than what they are asked to do by the central government.

The council has held 10 general meetings and nine subcommittee meetings since Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda asked it two years ago to draw up a recommendation concerning revision of the local administrative and financial systems in line with the social and economic changes.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

JAPANESE DIET EXPECTED TO DISBAND 15 SEPTEMBER

Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 3 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 3 Sep KYODO--The Diet is likely to pass only two bills before disbanding next Friday to prepare for a general election one month later as desired by Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

This likelihood arose Monday when the ruling and opposition parties agreed at a meeting of their Diet affairs officials to deliberate only two medical bills, including the one providing for relief measures for smog disease victims, during the current extraordinary Diet session which began last Thursday.

This means that a number of other bills related to the people's livelihood, left over from the previous Diet session, have to be shelved again.

The opposition parties pressed during Monday's meeting for the holding of a budget committee session of the Diet mainly to discuss energy problems.

They also proposed the convening of the special Diet committee on aircraft imports to investigate allegations that former Defense Chief Raizo Natsuno gave false testimony at past Diet hearings concerning his part in irregular sales promotion of U.S.-made military planes in Japan.

Ruling Liberal-Democratic party officials, however, rejected the opposition demands on the ground that the LDP has already made its position clear on the issue.

The opposition parties are scheduled to conduct their questioning at plenary meetings of the Diet until Friday on the policy speech delivered by Ohira before both houses of the parliament Monday.

The ruling and opposition party officials in charge of Diet steering, in the meantime, are unlikely to hold further negotiations on Diet procedures.

The prime minister is thus expected to dissolve the House of Representatives after the opposition concludes its questioning on his speech and passage of the two bills on Friday in response to a non-confidence motion to be sponsored by the Japan Socialist Party, Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party.

The House of Councillors (upper house) will then be recessed automatically until the Diet is convened again following the general election a month later.

CSO: 4120

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

BRIEFS

IWO JIMA DRILL BASE--Tokyo, 4 Sep KYODO--The Maritime Self-Defense Force will begin plans for changing Iwo Jima Island in the Pacific, about 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo, into a base for patrol plane drills and warship unloading facilities in fiscal 1980. According to the MSDF plan, the island will be used for night-time drills by patrol planes which are difficult to conduct in mainland Japan. The base will be used for anti-submarine tactics in time of emergency. Also, helicopters will be stationed there for rescue use, MSDF officials said. The large-scale unloading facilities will allow 2,000-ton transport warship class ships to stay there. About two years from fiscal 1980 will be needed for investigations. Some 3-4 years more are expected to be needed before construction starts, MSDF officials said. At present, 51 servicemen of the MSDF are stationed in Iwo Island aviation base's branch corps, but there is no aircraft there, MSDF officials added. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 4 Sep 79 OW]

LABOR UNIONS AGREE--Tokyo, 21 Aug--Leaders of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (SOHYO) and the Japan Federation of Iron and Steel Workers' Unions (TEKKOROREN) agreed Tuesday in principle to step up their cooperation to bring about a unified labor front. The agreement was reached at a meeting in a Tokyo hotel between Mitsuo Tomizuka, secretary general of SOHYO, the nation's largest labor organization, and Tatsuhiko Nakamura, chairman of the 245,000-member TEKKOROREN. The top-level meeting was arranged to settle differences between the TEKKOROREN and its parent organization SOHYO on TEKKOROREN's proposal to establish a new central organization by the autumn of 1980 to unite labor. TEKKOROREN's proposal, made earlier this month, became the focus of criticism from other SOHYO federations because TEKKOROREN had decided to secede from SOHYO when the new body should be formed. Tomizuka and Nakamura agreed that both organizations should make further efforts to adjust their views on TEKKOROREN's proposal, although the two leaders failed to clear all doubts on the issue. [Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 21 Aug 79 OW]

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

JAPAN'S DOKO OPTIMISTIC ON JAPAN'S ECONOMY

Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 7 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Sendai, 7 Sep KYODO—Toshiwo Doko, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Friday said that he does not expect the immediate future of the Japanese economy between the rest of this year and early next year to be so worrisome as some pessimists have pictured.

The top policymaker of the Japanese business community gave his rather optimistic national economic outlook when he met the press upon his arrival here for talks with local business leaders.

He said he sees no serious factors to worry about in the immediate prospects because the world economic picture, in general, is stable despite the recent crude oil price rises and supply strains.

Besides, the international oil price markups turned out to be considerably milder than those of the first oil crisis in autumn 1973, he said.

Doko said that it will be possible for provincial communities like Sendai to expect new industrial ventures to be launched in provincial areas by big business enterprises concentrated in Tokyo and other key cities.

Referring to next spring's annual wage raise drive by organized labor, he emphasized that the pay raise demands should moderate enough not to exceed labor productivity.

He hoped labor would again settle for moderate raises next year by "exercising good sense," adding his warning of a vicious circle of sharp pay raises inviting a new round of inflationary price rises and demands for even higher wages.

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

IRAN, JAPAN PETROCHEMICAL OPERATIONS DETAILED

Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 5 Sep 79 OW

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 5 Sep KYODO—The Mitsui group will resume construction of a giant petrochemical complex in southern Iran in November if the Japanese Government agrees to invest its funds in the project, according to a senior group official.

Einei Yamashita, president of Iran Chemical Development Co., told reporters Tuesday a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) plant will go into operation in July next year if construction reopens in November.

The LPG plant will go into full-scale operation on a commercial basis in 1982 to produce 1,900,000 tons annually. The Mitsui group will ship the total output of LPG to Japan in view of the nation's tight energy supply situation, he said.

Yamashita said talks are under way between the Mitsui group and Iran to work out a final business program for Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co., the builder-operator of the petrochemical complex in Bandar Khomeini, renamed from Bandar Sharhpur, in southern Iran. Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company is an equally-owned joint venture of Iran Chemical Development Co. and National Petrochemical Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC).

The Mitsui group intends to conclude the talks with the Iranians by mid-September, he said. A tentative business program calls for resuming construction of the LPG plant and related facilities in November for completion in July next year. The operation rate of the plant is expected to reach 75 per cent by the end of 1980.

Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. will go into full-scale commercial operation in January 1982. The joint company is expected to clear yen 69 billion of accumulated deficits in four years and to pay a dividend of 10 per cent in 1986, according to the program. The Mitsui group started construction of the complex in 1976 which includes a 300,000-ton capacity ethylene plant, a natural gas separation facility and an aromatics plant. Work has been suspended since last March in the wake of the Islamic revolution.

The long suspension of work has pushed the total cost up to yen 730 billion from original yen 550 billion. Of the yen 180 billion in cost overruns, yen 100 billion will be covered by a capital increase for the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. The Mitsui group has asked the government to bear yen 45 billion or more out of Japan's share of yen 50 billion.

Meanwhile a government mission was scheduled to leave here Wednesday afternoon for Tehran to promote the project. The mission will be led by Naohiro Amaya, vice minister of international trade and industry for international affairs.

During their stay in Iran until Tuesday, mission members will meet with Iranian Government officials. The mission will ask Iran to increase its oil supply to Japan in return for the Japanese Government investment in the petrochemical project, according to sources close to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

JAPAN TO ASK IRAN FOR ADDITIONAL CRUDE SUPPLIES

Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 2 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 2 Sep KYODO—Japan will ask Iran to supply an additional 200,000 barrels per day of crude oil on a government-to-government basis in return for its investment in the joint petrochemical complex venture in southern Iran, according to government sources.

The sources said the request would be made to the Iranian authorities when a government mission visits Tehran this week.

Japanese oil refiners and trading houses are importing about 450,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Iran in direct deals with the Iranian National Oil Co. The government wishes to import an additional 200,000 barrels a day under a contract with the Iranian Government in return for investment in the complex by the governmental overseas economic cooperation fund.

The project, which includes a 300,000-ton capacity ethylene plant, a natural gas separation facility and an aromatic plant, is about 85 per cent complete. Construction work, undertaken by the Tehran-based Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co., owned equally by Iran's National Petrochemical Co (NPC) and Japan's Mitsui group, has been suspended since last March, due to the Islamic revolution.

In view of the inflation-increased cost, the joint company plans to double its paid-up capital to yen 200 billion (about dollar 910 million), according to sources. The sources said it was agreed that half of the yen 100 billion capital increase, would be put up by Iran and the balance by Japan.

The Mitsui group intends to provide yen 5 billion and wants the overseas economic cooperation fund to invest the remaining yen 45 billion, according to the sources.

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

JAPAN WORKING ON 5-YEAR OIL DEVELOPING PLAN

Tokyo KYODO in English 0458 GMT 4 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 4 Sep KYODO—Japan is going to press ahead with an ambitious five-year plan to bring up oil and gas believed deposited offshore.

An organization named Nihon Kaiyo Sekiyu Shigen Kaihatsu (Japan Ocean Petroleum Resources Development) Company will take charge of the project with a total cost of about yen 200 billion.

Its goal over the five years starting in fiscal 1980 is to find wells producing about 96 million kiloliters of crude oil and natural gas.

The amount, if found, would still be a drop in the bucket, considering Japan's annual oil consumption alone totals nearly 300 million kiloliters.

Success, however, would concretize Japan's determination to reduce its dependence on imported oil for energy. Japan relies on oil for most of its fuel needs and 99.7 per cent of its oil comes from overseas.

This country produces only 0.3 per cent of its crude oil domestically. Success in the project, due to get underway next year, would bring this up to 1 per cent, meaning a little less dependence on imported oil.

Japan has proposed to China that the two nations jointly develop continental shelf oil in the waters of Senkaku, an island group north of Taiwan claimed by both the Beijing and Tokyo governments.

It may take time before this scheme is actually put into effect, since Taiwan also claims ownership of the uninhabited island group.

The planned oil and gas development program will be launched on the basis of a recommendation made in July by a panel advising the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

This panel, the development section of the oil deliberation council, believes there are about 370,000 square kilometers of basin suitable for oil and gas exploration in the continental shelf surrounding Japan.

It is not known yet where the project will actually get underway. But the Japan Ocean Petroleum Resources Development Company has successfully developed oil and gas in an offshore well in the Japan Sea off Niigata Prefecture.

The well is about 11 kilometers in the Japan Sea off the mouth of the Agano River in Niigata Prefecture. It daily produces 260 kiloliters of crude oil and 1.35 million cubic meters of natural gas.

The company also found a deposit off the northern island of Hokkaido last February. If all goes well, that well will go into full production operation six years from now.

It is aiming at oil drilling exploration somewhere in the Japan Sea, about 5,000 meters below the surface of the water.

Officials concerned believe the project will be worth putting into practice in view of the oil crisis triggered in 1973 and also in the wake of the era of dollar 20 per barrel of crude oil.

They said domestically produced oil has a low sulfur content and is of light quality suitable for production of gasoline. The natural gas produced is said to be clean energy.

Japanese oil industry sources say that about 1.3 billion kiloliters of oil and gas may be exploitable in sea regions surrounding Japan, although they don't say whether this has been scientifically substantiated.

Some officials, meantime, said that a future Japanese oil development project that is likely to pay off is the continental shelf in the Senkaku Island area.

The area being considered is a 200,000 square kilometer Okinawa-East China Sea region.

The United Nations Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), a predecessor of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, reported in 1968 that "there is a strong possibility of oil and natural gas deposits in this region."

It is said to be the only single area where as much as 800 million kiloliters of oil may be found, according to officials.

Although 1.3 billion kiloliters of oil and gas may be deposited in sea areas around Japan, officials said that in terms of a single well output, the volume might be very small.

They said Japan has the technology that can be used to explore oil resources in the Senkaku area.

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

JAPAN PLANS TO CONDUCT ANTARCTIC OCEAN OIL SURVEY

Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 5 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 5 Sep (KYODO)—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry disclosed Tuesday a plan to conduct a three-year survey on oil deposits in the Antarctic Ocean, beginning in Fiscal 1980.

According to the plan, the survey will be conducted in three areas—the Bellingshausen Sea in fiscal 1980, Weddell Sea in fiscal 1981 and Ross Sea in fiscal 1982—using the 1,800-gross-ton geological survey ship "Hakurei Maru."

The Antarctic Ocean is believed to be holding vast oil and natural gas deposits, estimated at about 45 billion barrels and about 3,250 billion cubic meters, respectively, according to the natural resources and energy agency under the ministry's jurisdiction.

It will be the first time for Japan to survey oil deposits in the Antarctic Ocean. The survey results will be made known internationally, the agency said.

Under the present plan, the Hakurei Maru will leave Japan for the Antarctic Ocean in November next year to begin the fiscal 1980 survey, which is expected to last for about a month.

In its budgetary requests for fiscal 1980, beginning next April, the ministry has asked the finance ministry to set aside yen 530 million (dollar 2.4 million) as survey appropriations for the first year.

Interest in oil and other Antarctic natural resources, both onshore and offshore, is mounting throughout the world with some advanced nations already succeeding in striking oil deposits, although they have not made known data on their oil finds, according to the agency.

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

JAPANESE AGENCIES REQUEST LARGER BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 31 Aug 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 31 Aug KYODO—Budgetary appropriations sought by government agencies for fiscal 1980 totaled yen 43.5 trillion (dollar 200 billion), 12.7 per cent more than the fiscal 1979 budget, the finance ministry estimated Friday.

With appropriations to cover wage hikes for government employees and some other accounts yet to be sought, final requests under the general account budget will come to around yen 43.7 trillion, officials said.

The ministry has repeatedly appealed for austerity in the coming fiscal year, beginning April 1, in view of the current heavy dependence on borrowing.

The fiscal 1979 budget depends on bond issues for nearly 40 per cent of revenue, with bond flotations planned in the year totaling yen 15.3 trillion.

Equal importance is attached to maintaining economic recovery and reducing deficit spending under the fiscal 1979 budget, but the one for the coming year will give top priority to restoring financial health, officials said.

Attention in compiling the fiscal 1980 budget will be focused on how much the ministry slashes the appropriations requests— with yen 43 trillion expected to be the border line—as well as on whether the controversial general excise tax will be levied within the fiscal year, sources said.

The ministry limited the rate of increase in appropriations requests to 9.8 per cent. The total requests topped that ceiling because faster increases were allowed for a few programs, including overseas economic assistance and energy.

The ministry also closed Friday appropriations requests under the fiscal loan and investment program, a companion budget financed by postal savings and other government-controlled funds, along with those under the general account budget.

The requests had yet to be totaled up, but ministry sources estimated it was about 50 per cent larger than in fiscal 1979, when yen 16.8 trillion--up 13.1 per cent over the previous year--was appropriated.

The role played by the program in Japan's two-tier budget system will increase in the coming fiscal year because of the stringency faced by the general account budget, officials said.

CSO: 4120

ECONOMIC

BRIEFS

MIDDLE EAST TRADE OFFICE—Tokyo, 1 Sep—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry announced Saturday it has set up a Middle East office in its trade policy division with a staff of five. The task of the new office led by Kumi haru Takeda is to reinforce Japan's economic diplomacy with Arab countries by following up economic cooperation projects, a MITI spokesman said. Officials say the office looks forward to extensive activity in linking Japan and the Middle East by coordinating trade relations, collecting information as well as promoting the activities of Japanese private businesses in the region and designing a comprehensive Japanese diplomatic strategy toward the Arab countries. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0517 GMT 1 Sep 79 OW]

PETROLEUM SUBSIDIARY—Tokyo, 23 Aug—The National Federation of Agricultural Associations (ZENNO) has decided to set up a subsidiary here for direct purchase of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Mideast oil-producing nations. The decision, subject to government approval, is aimed at putting LPG-consuming farmers under ZENNO's nationwide distributing system, officials said. The officials said the subsidiary, expected to start operation in October, would be capitalized at yen 500 million under the name of "ZENNO Fuel Terminal Co." ZENNO will soon start negotiations to obtain government permission as an LPG importer under the petroleum industry law, they said. They said ZENNO hopes to import 200,000 tons of LPG a year, almost one-third of total consumption by farmers. It plans to start early next year construction of storage facilities at Sakaide, Kagawa Prefecture, with completion expected for early 1982. ZENNO expects construction of the facilities, capable of storing up 100,000 tons of LPG, to cost nearly yen 14 billion, they added. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0223 GMT 23 Aug 79 OW]

CRUDE OIL IMPORTS—Tokyo, 22 Aug—Japan imported 24,198,000 kiloliters of crude oil last month, up 24.8 percent over July 1978, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) reported Wednesday. This brought the April-July total to 89,677,000 kiloliters, up 9.1 percent over the same 1978 period. MITI officials attributed the gain to an upturn in production in Saudi Arabia. Production of fuel oils, including gasoline and homeheating oil, totaled 18,630,000 kiloliters in July, up 3.6 percent over July 1978. Production of gasoline moved up 7.2 percent, kerosene 10.7 percent, gas oil

11.6 percent and diesel oil 11.2 percent. Sales remained depressed for the second month running in a turnaround from an upsurge in May, with July shipments at 17,640,000 kiloliters. Down 1.3 percent. Shipments in June showed a decline of 0.1 percent from a year earlier. The figures are preliminary and may be revised later. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 22 Aug 79 OW]

CSO: 4120

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY LEVELS IN 1984 FORECAST BY PRODUCT

Tokyo KOGYO GIJUTSU in Japanese Vol 20, No 7, Jul 79 pp 85-89

[Article by Jinichi Sato, Technology Survey Section, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology: "Analysis of Technological Innovations (Outline), Technology Levels of Japan's Industries"]

[Text] This survey was prepared as an aspect of the "Long-Term Industrial Technology Development Plan" project undertaken by this section since 1977. We will present some general principles as well as special features from the results of the 1978 survey research consigned under the heading of "In-Depth Analysis of Technological Innovations, Technology Levels of Japan's Industries." This survey research selected 55 product fields for study (listed below). Survey questionnaire format was used for the research. Questionnaires were sent to appropriate professionals (those in positions equivalent to research or administrative section chiefs). Response ratio was 67 percent. (567 questionnaires, sent)

(1) Trend in Technology Levels

Technology levels were divided into two categories--processed goods technology levels and production technology levels, and technology level trends over the next 5-year span were observed vis-a-vis trends in developed nations as well as in industrially developing nations (hereafter referred to as NICS [newly industrialized countries]).

Compared to technology levels of the developed countries (Figures 1 and 2), both processed goods technology levels and production technology levels are expected to move upward in many product lines. Eighteen products including camera (7), peripheral and terminal equipments (19), synthetic fiber (30), and cement (47) are thought to exceed the top Western standard at present and are expected to hold their lead 5 years hence.

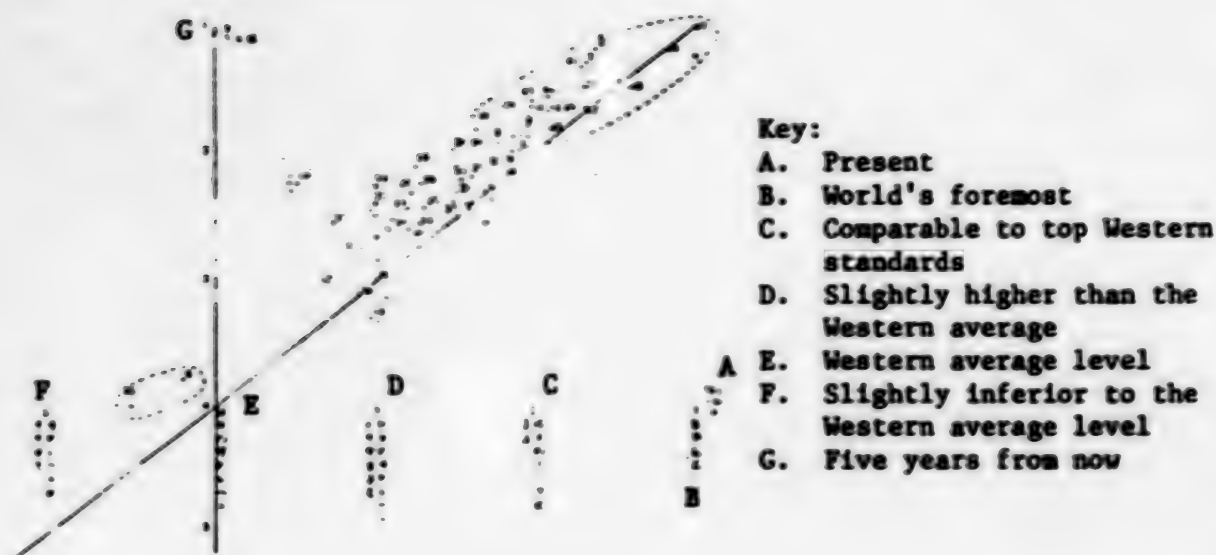


Figure 1. Processed Goods Technology Levels Compared to Developed Nations

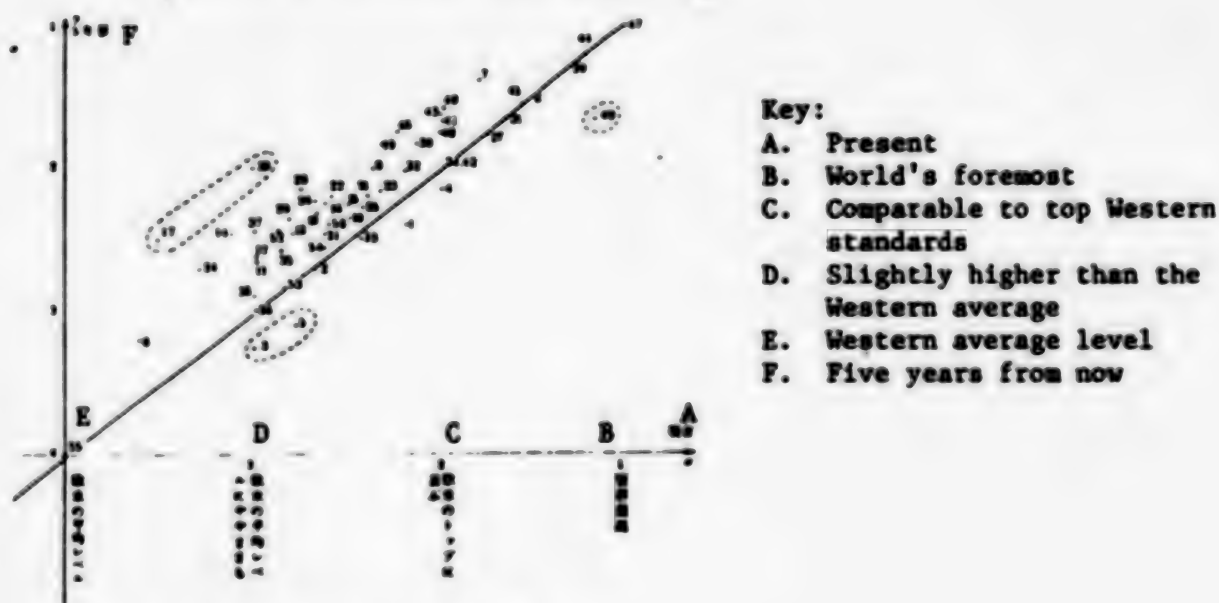


Figure 2. Production Technology Levels Compared to Developed Nations

Production technology levels are expected to improve rapidly in large computer (17) and film (39) sectors. On the other hand, when processed goods technology and production technology levels are compared with those of NICS, in most product lines, there will be some "catching up" in the next 5 years; but Japan is expected to still hold its dominance in both categories. But when we add the factor of international competition, we must conclude that in general electrical appliances, plastics, industrial chemicals, synthetic rubber, and natural fiber, Japan will be in an inferior position.

(2) Trend in Technological Development Potential Level

In this survey research ability to improve one's technological level--that is, technological development potential--has been classified into three "types." And the technological development discussed here is restricted to a comparison of current levels and those of 5 years hence with the developed states. (NICS were not considered.)

The first type is the standard of technological development potential based on improvement of the performance of quality of existing products or refinement of production technology (Figure 3). Large computer (17) and middle and small size computer (18) fields are expected to equal the top level technological development potential of the West in the next 5 years.

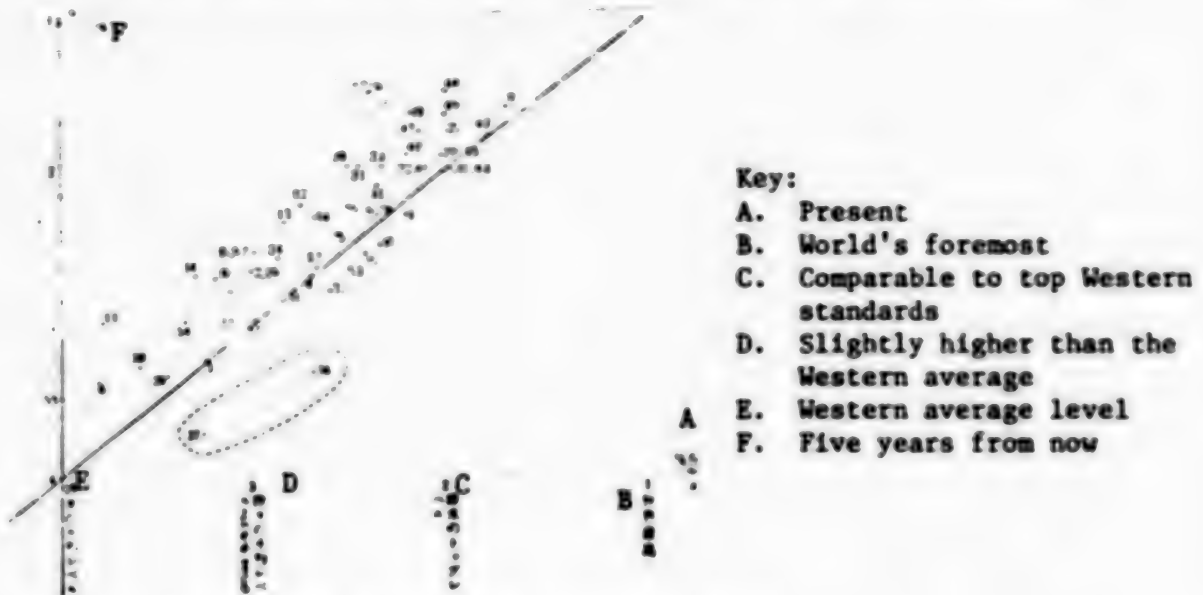


Figure 3. Technology Development Potential Based on Improvement or Refinement of Existing Technology

The second type is the technological development potential level based on development of new products or new manufacturing processes through application or combined utilization of existing technologies or ideas (Figure 4). Advancement is expected in all the fields. Large computers (17), in particular, are expected to improve tremendously. The third type is the technological development potential level based on brand new product or manufacturing process (Figure 5). The distribution pattern for this type was somewhat different from the first and second types' distribution patterns. That is to say, vast differences are seen in technological development levels of various processed goods. Watches (8), aluminum products (41) and cement (47) are the only ones that can equal the top level technological development potentials of the West. The field in which spectacular rise in standard is expected is the large computer (17) field.

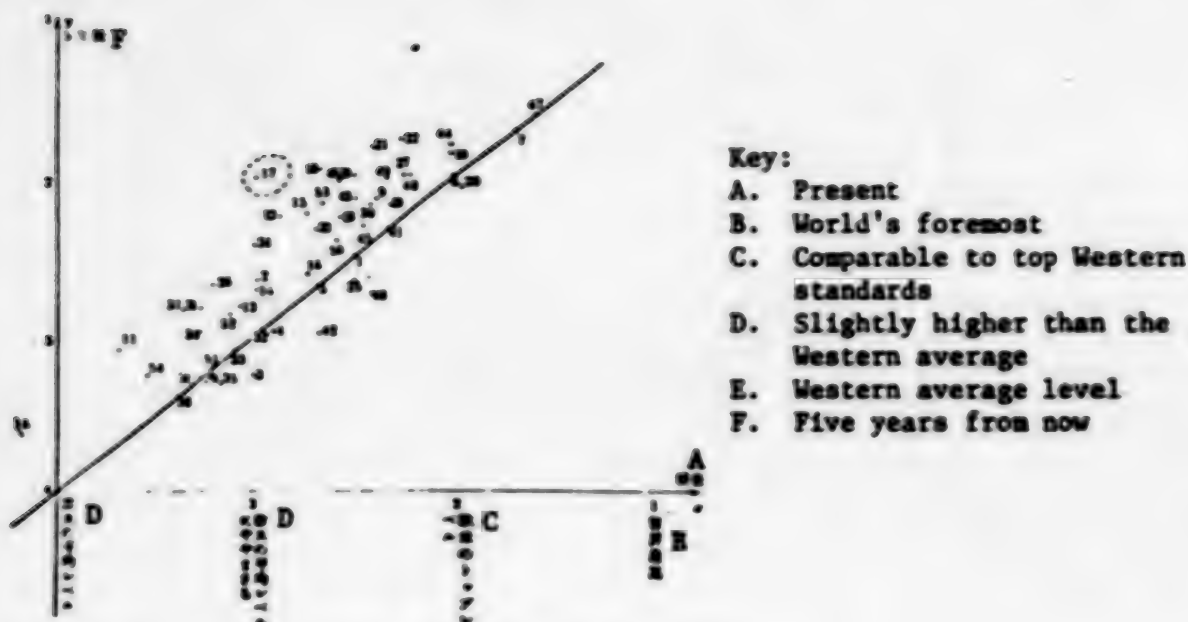


Figure 4. Technological Development Potential Based on Development of New Product or New Manufacturing Process

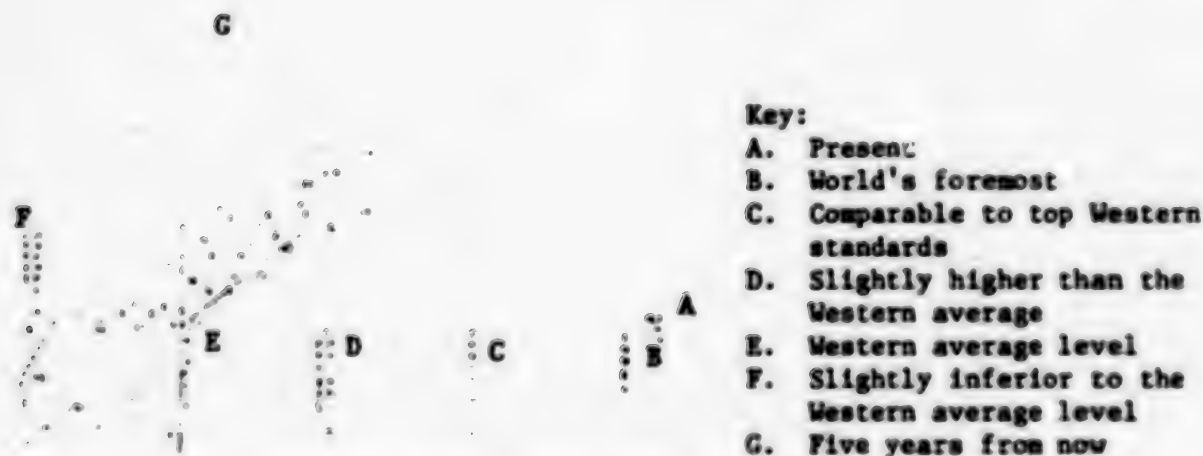


Figure 5. Technological Development Potential Based on Development of Brand New Technology

(3) Relationship Between Technological Development Level and Technological Development Potential Level

Let us deal with technology standards for goods and production processes as a unit and relate it to the levels of respective type of technological

development potential discussed in the previous section. In the case of technology levels 5 years hence and the technological development levels based on improvement or refinement of technology (Figure 6), as a whole, the technology levels do correspond to technological development potential levels. (There is a rough correlation.) The fields in which the technological development potential levels far exceed the technology levels are large computers (17) and medium and small size computers (18).

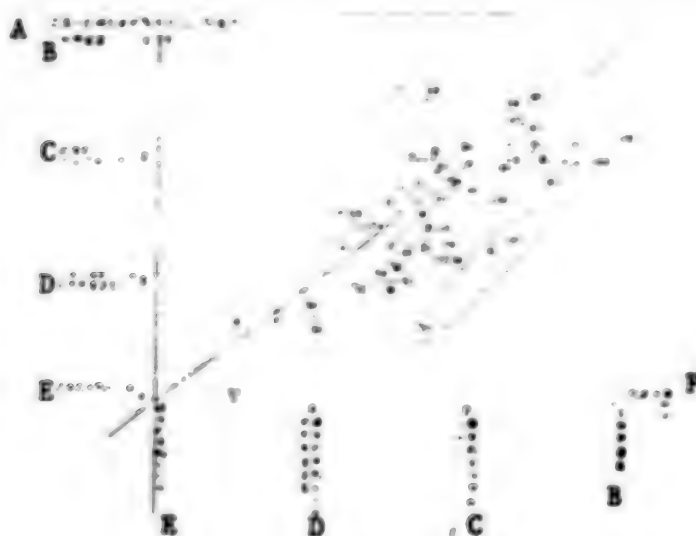


Figure 6. Technology Levels and Technological Development Potential Levels Based on Improvement/Refinement of Technology-- A Comparison With Developed States, Five Years Hence

Key:

- A. Technological development potential based on improvement/refinement of technology
- B. World's best
- C. Top level in the West
- D. Slightly better than average standard in the West
- E. Average Western standard
- F. Technology level

With respect to the relationship between technology levels and technological development potential levels based on new products and/or new production processes (Figure 7), correlation is less definite.

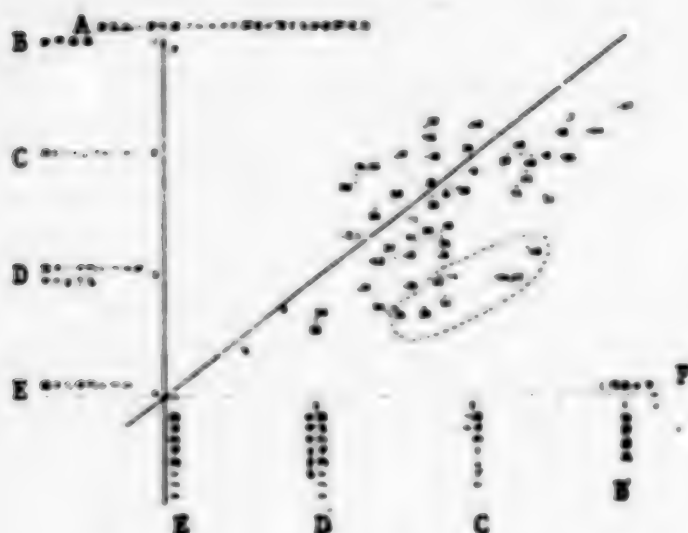


Figure 7. Technology Levels and Technological Development Potential Levels Based on New Products/New Production Processes—A Comparison With Developed Nations Five Years Hence

Key:

- A. Technological development potential based on new products/new production processes
- B. World's best
- C. Top level in the West
- D. Slightly better than average standard in the West
- E. Average Western standard
- F. Technology level

Lastly, there is hardly any correlation between brand new technology development potential levels and technology levels. This tendency is particularly well demonstrated in the case of synthetic rubber (34), chemical dyes and cosmetics (35). In examining the relationship between these three types of technological development potential levels and technology standards, as we moved from improvement/refinement of technology category to brand new technology classification, there was decrease in correlation. This fact presages that 5 years from now, Japan's development potential for brand new technologies will be quite weak although the Japanese industries' (manufactured goods sector) technology levels will be very high.



Figure 8. Technology Levels and Brand New Technology Development Potential Level--A Comparison With Developed States Five Years Hence

Key:

- A. Development potential based on brand new (innovative) technology
- B. World's best
- C. Top level in the West
- D. Slightly better than average standard in the West
- E. Average Western standard
- F. Technology level
- G. Slightly inferior to Western average level

(4) Price Competitiveness With Developed Countries and NICS

I would like to remind the reader that the survey (which resulted in Figure 9) was made as an independent study item without reference to the relationship between technology levels and technological development potential levels. First of all, Japan was strong against NICS in nine fields, though qualitative difference was demonstrated vis-a-vis developed countries. These included ordinary merchant ships (3), large computers (17), medical equipments (22). Secondly, eight fields were shown to be Japan's strength against developed states but her weakness relative to NICS. These included cameras (7), household electric appliances (21) and natural fiber (51). Thirdly, weakness was demonstrated against both the developed countries and NICS in nine sectors, including plastics (31), synthetic rubber (34), aluminum refining (42) and so on.

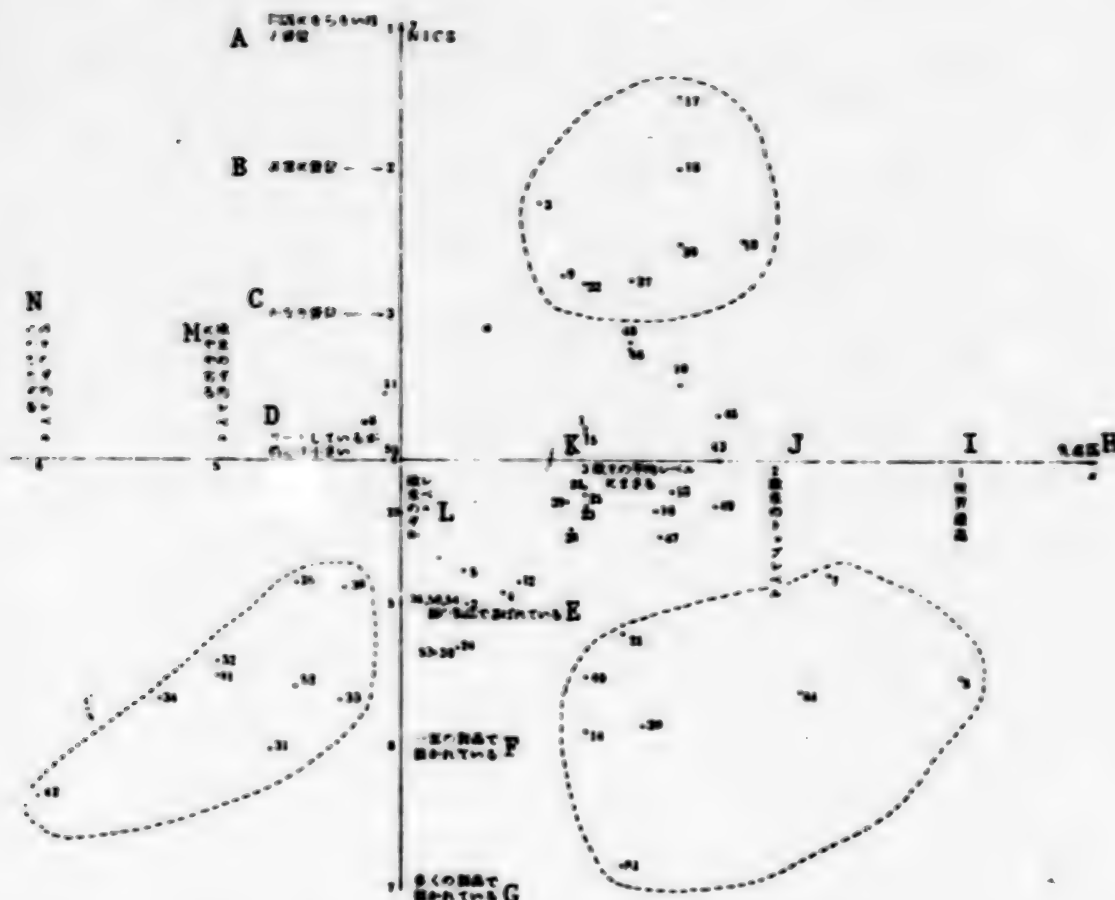


Figure 9. Price Competitiveness With Developed Nations and NICS Five Years From Now

Key:

- A. Overwhelmingly superior
- B. Very superior
- C. Quite superior
- D. Though Japan leads, the difference is slight
- E. Equal with respect to some product lines
- F. Japan lags behind with respect to some product lines
- G. Japan lags behind in many product lines
- H. Developed countries
- I. World's best
- J. Top level in the West
- K. Superior to Western average level
- L. Western average level
- M. Slightly below Western average level
- N. Quite a bit below Western average level

Please consult Table 1 for surveyed items indicated in Sections (1) to (4). For details regarding this survey research, read the report, "In-Depth Analysis of Technological Innovation--Technology Levels of Japan's Industries."

Table 1. Technological Standards, Technological Development Potential Levels and Price Competitiveness of Various Products

[illegible]

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Automobiles | 35. Dye, cosmetics |
| 2. Trucks | 36. Surface activators |
| 3. Ordinary merchant vessels | 37. Drugs |
| 4. Specialized vessels | 38. Insecticides and fungicides
(agricultural chemicals) |
| 5. Railroad cars and railway systems | 39. Film |
| 6. Aircraft | 40. Steel-frame structures |
| 7. Cameras | 41. Aluminum products |
| 8. Watches | 42. Aluminum refining |
| 9. Metrological instruments | 43. Electric wire |
| 10. Business machines | 44. Regular steel |
| 11. Nuclear equipments | 45. Specialized steel |
| 12. Electrical power equipments | 46. Glass |
| 13. Industrial electrical appliances | 47. Cement |
| 14. General electric appliances | 48. Ceramics |
| 15. Communication equipments | 49. Tires |
| 16. Semi-conductor, I.C. | 50. Petroleum refining |
| 17. Large computers | 51. Natural fiber |
| 18. Middle and small size computers | 52. Foodstuff |
| 19. Peripherals and terminals | 53. Construction |
| 20. Sound equipments, projectors | 54. Public works |
| 21. Home electric appliances | 55. Crude oil, natural gas production |
| 22. Medical equipments | A. Technology standards—compared
with the West (U.S. and Europe) |
| 23. Motor/boiler | B. Technology standards—compared
with NICS |
| 24. Machine tools | C. Technological development potential |
| 25. Environmental equipments | D. Price competitiveness |
| 26. Construction equipments | E. Manufactured goods technology |
| 27. Wind/water powered machines | F. Production technology |
| 28. Plants | G. Improvement/refinement |
| 29. Machine parts | H. New product/new process |
| 30. Synthetic fiber | I. Innovative technology |
| 31. Plastics | J. Vis-a-vis West |
| 32. Fertilizer | K. Vis-a-vis NICS |
| 33. Industrial chemicals | |
| 34. Synthetic rubber | |

Notes:

In the comparison with developed states 5 years hence, O sign signifies better than "top level", Δ sign denotes better than "average level plus," and X sign means below "less than average level."

As for the comparison with NICS 5 years hence, those better than "very superior" were assigned O, "better than superior" were given Δ, and X represented performance below "lags behind in some products" category.

Price competitiveness was surveyed independent of technological levels and technological development potential levels. There was no correlation between them.

11460

CSO: 4105

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

JAPAN'S ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ESTIMATES FY-80 SPENDING

Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 4 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 4 Sep KYODO--The atomic energy commission said Tuesday that Japan's total spending on the research and development of nuclear and other energy resources during fiscal 1980 beginning next April is estimated at yen 315.25 billion.

The figure, representing a 59.1 per cent rise over the amount for the current fiscal year, includes yen 2.6 billion requested by the ministry of international trade and industry for studies on possible import of the Canada-developed Candu reactor.

The estimate was made on the basis of the commission's study of fiscal 1980 budgetary requests submitted by ministries and agencies for projects related with the research and development of nuclear energy and alternative energy resources for oil.

Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira is under obligation to take into consideration the estimate in tabling the national budget for the coming fiscal year.

The commission earlier expressed its objection to the MITI's proposal to import the Canadian Deuterium reactor.

In the estimate, however, the commission indicated a change in its earlier stance and gave tacit consent to the ministry's proposal.

The budgetary appropriation of yen 2.6 billion sought by the ministry consists of yen 800 million for studies on the safety of the Canadian reactor and yen 1.8 billion for purchase pertaining to necessary ground and environmental research.

Explaining the recognition of the MITI's budgetary request in the estimate, atomic energy commission officials said that the ministry had already been studying the safety of the Candu reactor under its three-year program ending in fiscal 1980.

The MITI and the science and technology agency are under an agreement that the land to be purchased by the ministry will not be used only for installation of the Canadian-developed reactor, the officials also pointed out.

The total estimate for the nuclear and other energy resources development projects in fiscal 1980 includes yen 46.61 billion, up 78.9 per cent over the current fiscal year, for studies and carrying out of safety measures for atomic-powered power plants.

It also includes yen 90.99 billion, up 93.7 per cent, for the commencement of the construction of the fast breeder reactor "Monju" by the power reactor and nuclear fuel development corporation.

CSO: 4120

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COOPERATION IN 250 CZECH AUTOMATION PROJECTS TO START IN 1980

Tokyo COMPUTER DIGEST in Japanese Jul 79 p 22

[Reprint of article from NIKKAN KOGYO SHINBUN 2 May 79]

[Text] Government officials announced on the 1st [May 1979] that as the first concrete enterprise of the Japan-CSSR Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, Japan will offer to cooperate with the 250 automation and rationalization projects being promoted in the 5-year plan, beginning in 1980 by the CSSR, and its "save the energy system," which is centered on industrial-use robots. Following this, and at the request of the CSSR, Japan will work on a cooperative endeavor with both governments and universities in Japan. With the office of the Japan Industrial-Use Robot Association, offering robot technology as the outlet, a compact, cooperative schedule will be drawn up for release of robot information from both the governmental and industrial circles. At present, Japan leads the world on industrial-use robots and successively exports products and technology to various countries. However, materialization on a country-to-country level, such as the above, is the first of its kind, and great progress is expected internationally.

The technology level of the Czech machinery industry, especially with machine tools, has already been acknowledged, but with industrial-use robots, its domestic development technology is considered to be still elementary. Imports of the experimental types have been limited to those for the Skoda automobile plant. However, the country has shown tremendous interest in such topics as productivity increase, working hour reduction, safety measures maintenance, routine job automation, etc., and, with the Foreign Ministry of Technology and Investment [FMTI] in charge, they have commenced their 5-year plan on robot automation.

The immediate objective of this plan is in the automation of processes such as welding, forging, die casting, casting, etc., and in assembly work, and their projection is in perfecting a robot-run production line on a three-shift continuous basis. For this reason, at the request of the CSSR, through the Foreign Ministry, acting as the representative of the Japanese government,

j. (Layburu), chief of the Overseas Technology Interchange Section of the FMTI and V. (Choppi), superintendent of the (Bukov) Metal Industry Research Institute, arrived in Japan and sought Japan's cooperation agreement, which was concluded between the two countries in November 78, and they also toured related plants.

The CSSR has 250 concrete projects on the automation and robotizing of the machinery plants in the country, and in relation to this, they have such requests as: (1) introducing a system that would combine CSSR machinery technology and Japan's robots; (2) receive the offer of not only the robot body, but control technologies such as the (servo) and (encoder), etc., and (3) import of software that is the core of the robot utility technology.

9134

CSO: 4105

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BRIEFS

NEW MITI SPACE DIVISION--Tokyo, 4 Sep--The Ministry of International Trade and Industry has decided to create a space industry division in the machinery and information industries bureau. The ministry said it recognized the need to nurture and develop the space industry because space development now has practical uses. The space industry, whose sales totaled yen 67 billion last year, is growing as a knowledge-intensive enterprise. [Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 4 Sep 79 OW]

LIQUID FUEL DEVELOPMENT PLAN--Tokyo, 7 Sep KYODO--The Ministry of International Trade and Industry has worked out a seven-year, yen 70 billion program to develop non-oil liquid fuel by fiscal 1990 (April 1990-March 1991). The plan, starting in fiscal 1980, calls for developing synthetic gas from natural gas to produce gasoline, methanol, kerosene and diesel oil. It also is designed to establish technology for refining ultra heavy crude oil produced from oil sand and oil shale and for developing biomass fuel. The ministry has asked for yen 4.3 billion in the fiscal 1980 budget to carry out the project. The new plan is designed to fill a gap until liquefied coal and other alternative energy sources come into full-scale production, officials said. The ministry intends to commission development of the new liquid fuel with oil, engineering, chemical, auto and other industries concerned. Of the yen 4.3 billion, yen 1.4 billion will be spent to develop synthetic gas, yen 1.9 billion for refining technology for ultra heavy oil and yen 1.1 billion for biomass fuel. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0053 GMT 7 Sep 79 OW]

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